(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the date from which enhancement is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) and (b). Consideration of various schemes, including that for Voluntary Retirement, is a continuous process with a view to making improvements as may be needed.

[Translation]

National Institute of Fashion Technology

1202. SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV :
SHRI P.C. THOMAS :

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the places where branches of NIFT have been opened in the country so far, State-wise; and

(b) the location of such branches likely to be opened during the current financial year, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA): (a) five branches of NIFT have been opened in the country so far in the following places :-

Place	State
Calcutta	West Bengal
Gandhinagar	Gujarat
Hyderabad	Andhra Pradesh
Madras	Tamilnadu
Mumbai	Maharashtra

(b) At present, there is no provision for opening of any new NIFT branch during the current financial year.

Cement Corporation of India

1203. SHRIMATI CHHABILA ARVIND NETAM : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Cement Corporation of India units set-up in Madhya Pradesh;

(b) the number of units lying closed and since when;

(c) the number of employees affected due to closure of these units; and

(d) the steps being taken by the Government to revive these closed units?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) 3 (three).

(b) to (d). None of the units in Madhya Pradesh has been closed. However, production in the Mandhar Unit has been suspended since 6.6.96 due to non-viable operations. However, workers numbering 577 are being paid wages and salary as per rules.

[English]

Export of Foodgrains

1204. SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have formulated any export policy on foodgrains;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have received any request from the neighbouring countries for importing Indian wheat and other types of foodgrains during 1996-97;

(d) if so, the details thereof with its quanity, country-wise and item-wise; and

(e) the action taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) and (b). The current Export and Import Policy provisions regarding export of foodgrains are as under :-

(i) Basmati Rice - Exports allowed subject to registration of contracts with Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA);

(ii) Non-Basmati Rice (fine and super varieties - Exports allowed without quantitative and price restrictions; and

(iii) Wheat and Wheat products, Grain and flour of Barley, Maize, Bazra, Ragi, Jowar (excluding Hybrid Jowar grown as khariff crop) - Exports allowed against quantitative ceilings and minimum export price as may be notified by DGFT from time to time and Registration-cum-Allocation Certificates (RCACs) issued by APEDA.

For the current year a ceiling of 10 lakh tonnes of non-durum wheat and 5 lakh tonnes of durum wheat has been released for exports. Further, Food Corporation of India (FCI) has been authorised to export/sell for exports 5 lakh tonnes of fine and superfine varieties of rice and 5 lakh tonnes of non-durum wheat from the public stocks against the carry-over commitment made in 1995-96. However, in case of wheat the quantity to be exported/sold for exports by FCI would be within the overall ceiling of exports of wheat. A ceiling of 1 lakh metric tonnes of coarse grains has been released for exports. A ceiling of 1.50 lakh metric tonnes of wheat products has been released for exports during the period 1.10.1996 to 31.3.1997.

(c) and (d). Govt. of Nepal has requested for supply of 45,000 MTs of wheat at concessional rates.

(e) The ceiling earmarked for exports of wheat for the current year has been exhausted. Hence it has not been possible, so far, to acceed to the request of Govt. of Nepal.